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IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 29, 1953

James C. Hagerty, Press Secretary to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY DR. MILTON S. EISENHOWER

Assistant Secretary John M. Cabot, Assistant Secretary Andrew N. Overby, Assistant Secretary Samuel W. Anderson, Mr. W. Tapley Bennett, Jr. and I have just completed a good-will, fact-finding mission which took us to the ten republics of South America.

It was an unprecedented, informative, and rewarding trip. In thirty-six days we held extended discussions with the Presidents, Cabinet Ministers, and industrial, labor, educational, agricultural, financial, and cultural leaders of the countries of an entire continent.

We sought, first, to impress upon all we visited that the United States is fully cognizant of the imperative need to strengthen hemispheric solidarity, and that our government and people wish to have friendly and mutually helpful relations with all the countries of Latin America.

We sought, second, to achieve an integrated, over-all view of industrial, agricultural, financial, political, social and other conditions in South America which have a bearing on United States relations with those countries.

Everywhere we were received with great warmth and friendliness. Government officials and private individuals alike did all they could to facilitate our studies.

We return with the deep conviction that sound, friendly relations with the republics of South America are tremendously important to the United States -- important economically, militarily, and culturally -- and critically important in the world-wide struggle for the winning of men's minds and allegiances.

We believe even more firmly now that abiding cooperation between the United States and the republics of South America will not be the result of wishful thinking or mere accident. Rather, it will flow only from adherence to consistent programs, honorably and consistently observed.

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among other things, there must be developed better understanding between the governments and peoples of the Americas, for abiding cooperation can be based only on genuine understanding.

There must be mutual respect for one another's cultures and institutions, and this means, among other things, that we must adhere to our solemn pledge of non-intervention in the internal affairs of our sister republics.

There must be mutually-helpful economic cooperation. South America is in an era of amazing progress, and capital for development is required. The greater part of the requirements can and should be met by private investment, chiefly, of course, from local savings; however, in some situations public investment, in part from abroad, must facilitate a balanced development, by financing such basic services as transportation and communications facilities, and this in turn should further stimulate private investment.

There must be a definition of, and adherence to common goals, including the urgent goal of peace, rising standards of well-being, and the supremacy of spiritual values.

We found much misunderstanding of the United States in South America -- misunderstanding especially of the economic capacity of the United States and an underestimation of the degree of the sacrifices the people of our country have made since 1941. We tried, in numerous press conferences, to dispel many of these mistaken impressions.

My associates and I have just made a very preliminary report to the President, Secretary Dulles, and others. Our work is not yet completed. We shall hold conferences with governmental, industrial, and commercial leaders in this country before we submit a final report with our recommendations.

We do believe that our mission, by the first phase of its work, has made at least a sound contribution to hemispheric solidarity.

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